

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Virginia Migratory Waterfowl 2008-2009 Seasons and Bag Limits



To be used as a supplement to Hunting and Trapping in Virginia,
2008-2009 Regulations which contains additional information on license
requirements, license fees, and general regulations governing hunting in Virginia
as well as open seasons and bag limits on non-migratory game birds,
game animals, and furbearing animals.

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Cover artwork: 2009 Virginia Waterfowl Conservation Stamp by ©Spike Knuth
Inside illustrations by ©Spike Knuth

Caution: More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, 5721 South Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23231; phone (804) 771-2883, 771-2280; FAX (804) 222-8421.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 2000, Arlington, VA 22203.

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Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; To provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; To promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing; To provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.



Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230-1104

804/367-1000

804/367-1278 Voice/TDD

www.HuntFishVA.com

What's New For 2008-2009

Ducks

- The wood duck bag limit has increased from 2 birds to 3 birds per day.
- The scaup limit has been reduced to 1 bird per day from Oct. 9–Oct. 13, Nov 15–Nov 29 and from Dec 6–Jan 1. The daily bag limit is 2 birds per day from Jan 2–Jan 24.
- The season for canvasback is closed.

Canada Geese

- In the Western Goose Zone the daily bag limit has been increased from 2 to 3 birds from Nov 15–Nov 29 and Dec 15–Jan 14.

Atlantic Brant

- The brant season has been expanded from 50 to 60 days and the bag limit has increased from 2 to 3 birds per day.

Non-toxic Shot

Non-toxic shot approved by the Department [steel, bismuthtin, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-polymer, tungsten matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron (HEVISHOT), tungsten-iron-nickel-tin (TINT), tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-tin-iron, and iron-tungsten-nickel shots] is required for hunting all waterfowl, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, snipe and rails. Lead shot is **not allowed** for hunting these species and **cannot be in possession** in the field while hunting these species. Shot size should be no larger than “T”.



Virginia's Wildlife Restoration Program and You

Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping and wildlife watching. Through the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries make wildlife oriented outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition or a hunting or trapping license.

When you buy hunting-related equipment, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program. Virginia receives about \$5 million each year from this program, which funds a large portion of the Department's habitat management and wildlife population research projects.

Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed. Shooting and hawking hours for all waterfowl, all seasons is 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset, (except when permitted in the September Canada Goose season). See sunrise-sunset timetable on page 27. **Non-toxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting.**

Possession Limits

After opening day, possession limit is equal to two daily limits, (except snow geese where the possession limit has been removed), but no one is allowed to have more than one daily bag limit of game in his possession while in the forests, fields or waters of this state. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Duck Seasons

October 9–13 (Black duck closed)

November 15–29

December 6–January 24

October 25 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day,
see page 7 for more details.



Daily Bag Limit: 5 ducks which may include no more than 4 mallards (only 2 can be hen mallards), 4 scoters, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 1 black duck (except closed during Oct. 9-13), 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, and 1 scaup for 40 days (October 9–13, Nov. 15–29, Dec. 6–Jan. 1) and 2 scaup for 20 days (Jan. 2–24).

Closed season on canvasback and harlequin ducks.

The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

To Report Bands

1-800-327-BAND (2263) or
www.reportband.gov

This number is ONLY for reporting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands.
Private bands cannot be reported on this number.
Help us better manage Virginia's waterfowl.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day October 25, 2008

Youth 15 years and younger may hunt the allowed daily bag limit of ducks (as specified on page 6, except that 2 scaup can be taken), coots, mergansers, gallinules, moorhens, 2 Canada geese and 1 tundra swan (if the youth possesses a tundra swan permit) on the designated youth waterfowl hunting day. Youth 12 years of age and older will need a valid Virginia state hunting license. All participating youth must be HIP registered and accompanied by a licensed adult at least 18 years of age or older. The accompanying adult may not hunt the species listed above on this day.

Waterfowl Hunting On Wildlife Management Areas

For information about waterfowl hunting opportunities on Department Wildlife Management Areas, refer to the “2008-2009 Hunting & Trapping in Virginia Regulations and Information Digest” or the Department’s Web site at www.HuntFishVA.com.

Note: Waterfowl hunting on the Amelia, Briery Creek and James River Wildlife Management Areas is permitted only on the opening day, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the duck and goose seasons.

American Black Duck Migration Study

VDGIF is cooperating in a study to examine the winter ecology and migration patterns of black ducks. A main component of the study is monitoring the movements of hen black ducks through the use of satellite transmitters. These transmitters allow us to track long-range movements of these birds throughout their annual life cycle. The main objectives of the study are to evaluate local movements of black ducks wintering in Virginia, to determine black duck migration routes, and to assess the timing of black duck migrations from Virginia to their northern nesting grounds and back. Data obtained thus far has provided some interesting information on movement patterns. Black ducks marked in Virginia during the winter have migrated to nesting areas throughout eastern Canada, from the Canadian Maritimes and Newfoundland in the east, to as far north as James Bay, and as far west as Western Ontario. For additional information on this study and to follow the black duck migration, visit our Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/waterfowl/.



Eider

Special Sea Duck Season in the *Special Sea Duck Zone

Sea duck species are: scoter, long-tailed duck (formerly oldsquaw), and eider.

October 9–January 31

Bag limit: 7 per day, but may include no more than 4 scoters; 14 in possession, no more than 8 scoters.

*Special Sea Duck Zone Boundary

Those waters at a distance greater than 800 yards from any shore, island or emergent vegetation in the following areas: The ocean waters of Virginia, the tidal waters of Northampton and Accomack counties, and the Chesapeake Bay and each of its tributaries up to the first highway bridge. Back Bay and its tributaries are not included in the special sea duck hunting area.

Outside the Special Sea Duck Zone

Sea ducks may be taken during the regular duck season outside the Special Sea Duck Zone but must be counted as part of the regular duck season daily bag limit.



Atlantic brant

Brant

November 15–29

December 6–January 29

Bag limit: 3 per day, 6 in possession.

Snow Goose

October 31–November 29

December 6–March 10

Bag limit: 15 per day, no possession limit.



Snow geese

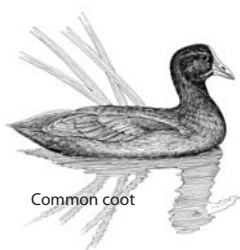
Coots

October 9–13

November 15–29

December 6–January 24

Bag limit: 15 per day, 30 in possession.



Common coot

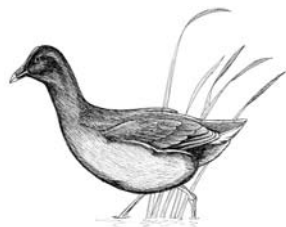
Gallinules/Moorhens

October 9–13

November 15–29

December 6–January 24

Bag limit: 15 per day, 30 in possession.



Common moorhen

Mergansers

October 9–13

November 15–29

December 6–January 24

Bag limit: 5 per day in addition to the regular duck bag, no more than 2 hooded mergansers; 10 in possession, only 4 of which may be hooded mergansers.



Hooded merganser

Waterfowl Information

The web is a wonderful tool for waterfowlers. Information on season dates and bag limits can be found along with information on waterfowl population status, habitat conditions, as well as current waterfowl research being conducted in Virginia. Two sites we recommend include:

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries Waterfowl Homepage:
www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/waterfowl/

USFWS and Flyway Council Web site: www.flyways.us

Canada Goose Seasons:

Atlantic Population Zone

November 15–29 and December 19–January 24.

Bag Limit: 2 geese per day

Western Zone

November 15–29, December 15–January 14, and January 15–February 14.

Bag Limit: 3 geese per day: Nov. 15–29 and Dec. 15–Jan. 14

5 geese per day: Jan. 15–Feb. 14

Back Bay

December 22–January 24.

Bag Limit: 2 geese per day

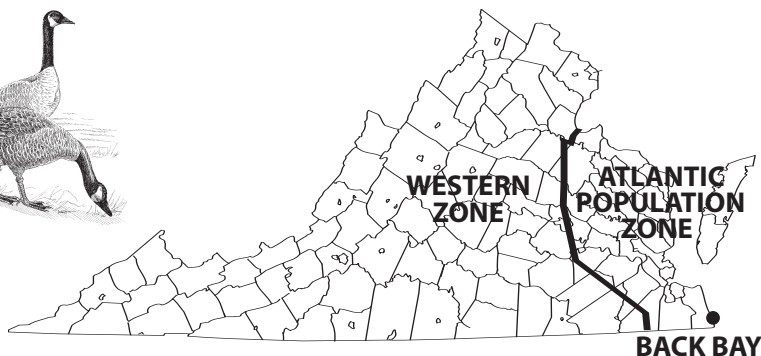
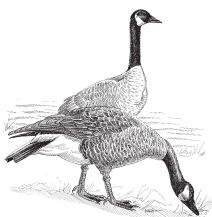
Canada Goose Zones

The dividing line between the Atlantic Population and Western Canada Goose Zones is as follows:

The Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rapahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along Interstate 95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south along Route 32 to the North Carolina border.

Back Bay Area Boundary

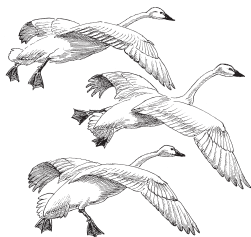
The waters of Back Bay and its tributaries and the marshes adjacent thereto, and on the land and marshes between Back Bay and the Atlantic Ocean from Sandbridge to the North Carolina line, and on and along the shore of North Landing River and the marshes adjacent thereto, and on and along the shores of Binson Inlet Lake (formerly known as Lake Tecumseh) and Red Wing Lake and the marshes adjacent thereto.



Tundra Swan:

December 1–January 31.

Bag limit: 1 per permit.



Tundra Swan Permit

Before any person may hunt tundra swans in Virginia, he or she must first apply for and receive a tundra swan hunt permit. Permits are issued through a special drawing held in October. Deadline for applications is October 3, 2008. The Department will issue no more than 600 swan hunting permits. The drawing is open only to holders of a valid Virginia hunting license. Hunters may apply for a swan permit by mail, online through the agency Web site (www.HuntFishVA.com), or by telephone at 1-877-VAHUNTS.

Swan hunting permits are non-transferable and are valid for use only by the person to whom issued. Permits must be in the immediate possession of the permit holder while swan hunting. Immediately at the time and place of kill successful permittees must cancel their swan hunting permit by permanently recording the month and day of kill and by attaching the permit to the swan as instructed. The VDGIF is required to obtain hunter participation and harvest information to offer this tundra swan hunting season. Hunters are required to complete the accompanying tundra swan hunt questionnaire and return it to the address listed on the questionnaire at the end of your hunt. Those who fail to return a completed questionnaire by February 15, 2009 are ineligible for future drawings.

Tundra Swan Hunt Area

Hunting will be permitted in all counties and portions of counties lying east of I-95 and south of the Prince William-Stafford County line in Chopawamsic Creek at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Report Wildlife Violations
1-800-237-5712
or e-mail wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov

License Fees

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. *The issuance fee is included in the prices below.*

Resident Hunting Licenses

Sportsman's License (<i>16 years and older</i>)\$120.00
Includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, muzzleloading license, freshwater fishing license and trout license.	
Hunting License (<i>16 years or older</i>) 18.00
County or City Hunting License (<i>16 years or older</i>)11.00
For county or city of residence only.	
Apprentice Hunting License11.00
Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license.	
Junior Hunting (<i>ages 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old</i>)8.50
Junior Combination Hunting License (<i>under 16 years old</i>)16.00
Includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, and muzzleloading license.	
Junior Lifetime Hunting License (<i>under age 12</i>)250.00
No annual bear, deer, turkey license required until age 12. National Forest Stamp, State Forest Stamp, County Damage Stamp and Bonus Deer Permits, if applicable, are required in addition to this license. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.	

Don't Forget: HIP and Migratory Duck Stamps!

All hunters (whether licensed or exempt from being licensed) who plan to hunt doves, waterfowl, rails, woodcock, snipe, coots, gallinules or moorhens in Virginia must be registered with the Virginia Harvest Information Program (HIP). HIP is required each year and a new registration number is needed for the upcoming season. You can register online at www.HuntFishVA.com or call 1-888-788-9772.

Also, Virginia waterfowl hunters must obtain a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp to hunt waterfowl in Virginia. The annual Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp can be purchased for \$10.00 (resident or non-resident) at VDGF license agents or clerks that sell Virginia hunting licenses or from the Department's Web site, www.HuntFishVA.com. To request collector stamps and prints, contact Mike Hinton at (540) 351-0564 or by e-mail at ducks@hintons.org.

Virginia Apprentice Hunting License

Waterfowl hunting in Fauquier County; ©Dwight Dyke



**Take A Friend,
Make a Hunter**

For more information log on to www.HuntFishVA.com

Lifetime Hunting License

Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.

Age 12–44	255.00
<i>(hunter education course required under age 16)</i>	
Age 45–50	205.00
Age 51–55	155.00
Age 56–60	105.00
Age 61–64	55.00
Age 65 and over	15.00

Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Veteran

Lifetime License10.00

To hunt and freshwater fish *(available through the Richmond Office or by mail)*.

Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime License10.00

Available through the Richmond Office or by mail. Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this hunting license.

Senior Citizen Hunting License *(age 65 and over)*7.00

Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license.

continued on page 14

Nonresident Hunting Licenses

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp.

Hunting License (<i>16 years or older</i>)	86.00
Apprentice Hunting License	21.00
Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits may be required in addition to this license.	
3-Day Trip License (<i>16 years or older</i>)	46.00
Must be 3 consecutive hunting days; no Sunday hunting.	
Youth Hunting License (<i>under age 12</i>)	13.00
Youth Hunting License (<i>ages 12–15</i>)	16.00
Youth Combination Hunting License (<i>under 16 years old</i>)	31.00
Includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, and muzzleloading license.	
Nonresident Lifetime Hunting License	505.00
Available through the Richmond office or by mail. Annual deer, bear, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license.	
Hunting (Shooting) Preserve	18.00
To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.	

Miscellaneous Licenses and Stamps

One or more of the following may be required in addition to a hunting license.

Licenses:

Stationary shore blind*	23.00
Floating blind	40.50
Offshore Blind Stake* (limit 4 per licensee)	5.50

* All applications for stationary blind licenses and offshore blind stake licenses must be made to the clerk of the circuit court or license agent of the county wherein or nearest to which the blind site is located or in which it is to be used. These licenses are not sold thru POS. With each license the clerk or agent delivers a metal license plate which is to be affixed to the blind or offshore blind stake where it may be easily observed.

Stamps:

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp	15.00
To take migratory waterfowl, required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license and sold at U.S. Post Offices or online at www.duckstamp.com . Valid July 1–June 30.	
Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp	10.00
To take ducks, geese, swan and brant. Required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless license exempt. Valid July 1–June 30.	

Lawful Hunting Methods

1. All migratory game birds may be taken by the aid of dogs, artificial decoys, manually or mouth-operated bird calls, with bow and arrow, crossbow, or with a shotgun (not larger than 10 gauge and incapable of holding more than three shells) fired from the shoulder; and by means of falconry.
2. All migratory game birds may be taken in the open, or from a blind or other place of concealment (except a sinkbox) on land or water camouflaged with natural vegetation, or with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed. (The term “sinkbox” refers to a raft or any type of low floating device having a depression which affords a hunter a means of concealing himself below the surface of the water).
3. All migratory game birds may be taken from floating craft (except a sinkbox), including those propelled by motor, sail and wind, or both, when (1) the motor of such craft has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled as the case may be and its progress therefrom has ceased; and (2) it is drifting, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or it is being propelled by paddle, oars, or pole. Craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds. Crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power except shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power is permitted in those areas described, delineated and designated as special sea duck hunting areas.
4. All migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of “normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice” that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of county State Extension Specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (Agricultural practices for hunting are limited to those undertaken to produce and gather a crop and manage the field afterwards.)
5. All migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation. There is no restriction on when manipulation may occur. Planted millet is not considered natural vegetation unless it becomes naturalized and grows on its own in subsequent years.
6. All migratory game birds may be taken over surface-mined lands being reclaimed where seeds or grains are scattered solely as a result of normal soil stabilization practice.
7. All migratory game birds, **except for waterfowl**, may be taken on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultur-

al crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of county State Extension Specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

8. All migratory game birds may be taken over standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where hunters have inadvertently scattered grain solely as a result of entering or leaving the field, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

Unlawful Hunting Methods

1. Migratory game birds may not be taken with a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, or machine gun.
2. Migratory game birds may not be taken with a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
3. Migratory game birds may not be taken from or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox, motor-driven conveyance, motor vehicle, or aircraft of any kind.
4. Migratory game birds may not be taken from or by means of a sailboat or other boat or floating craft having a motor attached unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sails furled and its progress therefrom has ceased.
5. Migratory game birds may not be taken by means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance or sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of waterfowl and coots.
6. Migratory game birds may not be taken by the use or aid of livestock as a blind or means of concealment.
7. Migratory game birds may not be taken by the use or aid of live birds as decoys.
8. Migratory game birds may not be taken by the use or aid of recorded bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
9. Migratory game birds may not be taken by the aid of baiting, or on, or over any baited area. As used in this section, **“baiting”** shall mean the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them; and **“baited area”** means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for 10 days fol-

lowing the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed. Hunters may be charged with hunting over bait if they “know or reasonably should know” that the area is a baited area. The placing or directing the placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing, inducing, or allowing any person to take or attempt to take any migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area constitutes a separate offense.

10. **Waterfowl may not be hunted** over manipulated planted millet, or over seed or grain from manipulated agricultural crops or normal agricultural operations except where seed or grain is present solely as a result of normal planting, harvesting or post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice.

Possession and Transportation

- Possession limits apply to transportation of game killed on more than one day.
- Ownership and possession of birds legally taken by any hunter is deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a commercial cold-storage or locker plant for transportation to some person other than the hunter.
- No person may possess over the daily limit of any wild bird or animal while in the forests, fields or waters of this state.
- If any person leaves migratory game birds in any place for any purpose, including temporary storage, the birds must have a tag attached with certain identifying information. Also, no person shall have in possession any migratory game birds belonging to another unless the birds are tagged.
- Any person, without a permit, may possess and transport for his own use the plumage and skins of lawfully taken, migratory game birds.
- Any persons, without a permit, may possess, dispose of and transport for the making of fishing flies, bed pillows, and mattresses, and for similar commercial uses, but not for millinery or ornamental use, feathers of wild ducks and wild geese lawfully killed, or seized and condemned by federal or state game authorities.
- Any person, without a permit, may transport lawfully killed migratory game birds into, within, or out of any state during and after the open seasons in the state where taken, subject to these and other conditions and restrictions.
 - (a) If such birds are dressed, one fully feathered wing must remain attached to each bird so as to permit species identification while being transported between the place where taken and the personal abode of the possessor or between the place where taken and a commercial preservation facility.

- (b) Any package or container in which such birds are transported must have the name, address and hunting license number of the shipper, name and address of the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of birds contained therein clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

Waterfowl Blind Laws

General: The laws governing the licensing and location of waterfowl blinds are included in the Code of Virginia, promulgated by the General Assembly. These are implemented by regulations adopted by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Blinds Generally: Blinds located west of I-95 are not subject to these laws and regulations, nor do they apply to blinds located in Accomack and Northampton counties. No new blind licenses will be issued for additional shore and stationary blinds in the city of Virginia Beach. Floating blinds may not anchor within 500 yards of any licensed blind.

Stationary Blinds: Is a structure erected at a fixed location either on the shores of the public waters or in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl. A stationary blind shall be (1) of such size and strength that it can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, or (2) large enough to accommodate and conceal a boat or skiff from which one or more hunters intend to hunt or shoot waterfowl.

Floating Blind: Is a floating device, whether in motion or anchored, that can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, uses a means of concealment other than the device's paint or coloration, and is used in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl.

Offshore Blind Stake Site: Is a specific location in the public waters where a stake is licensed for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl from a licensed floating blind. Valid only in the counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland and Richmond.

Waterfowl Blind Licenses: All applications for blind licenses shall be made to the local license agent or clerk of the circuit court of the county or city in which or nearest which the blind site is located. In the case of floating blinds, which may be used at various locations, this is not considered to be applicable. The license plate furnished must be affixed to the blind at a location where it can be easily seen.

When Blind Licenses Are Sold:

Stationary blind license for riparian owner:

July 1- August 31.

Stationary blind license for non-riparian owner:

July 1-September 30.

Floating blind licenses: on or after July 1.

Offshore Blind Stake Site license for non-riparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind (see page 18): November 1-10.

Offshore Blind Stake Site license for riparian owner who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind (see page 18) : November 11-15.

Spacing of Blinds Generally: Except for adjacent landowners, blinds may be placed no closer than 500 yards to each other, except they may be placed closer together with the mutual consent of the licensees involved. Except for county exceptions, listed on page 13 and 14, floating blinds may be positioned no closer than 500 yards to any other licensed blind, whether it is occupied or not, without consent of the owner of the neighboring blind. Stationary blinds cannot be located in any water having a depth of more than eight feet at mean high water.

Rights of Riparian Landowner: The owners of riparian rights or their invitees shall not be required to obtain a stationary blind license when hunting waterfowl from such a blind located on the riparian owner's property. However, a stationary blind license shall be required in order to afford the riparian owners the protections provided by Virginia law. The owner of riparian rights, his lessee or permittee has exclusive privileges of licensing blinds on his shoreline and prior rights of licensing and erecting blinds in the public waters in front of such shoreline. These blinds shall not be located in water deeper than eight feet at mean high tide, nor shall they be further than halfway across the body of water from the riparian owner's shoreline. The exercise of these prior rights is valid when a license has been obtained and displayed on a stake or blind by August 31. No other blind may be located within 500 yards of this stake or blind without consent of the owner, permittee, or lessee. The stake must be replaced by an erected stationary blind as specified by Code by November 1 to be a licensed blind under the law. The owner's rights extend out from his shoreline to the point where the water reaches eight feet in depth at mean high tide. Where the lands of two property owners adjoin, each may place blinds on his property or in the public waters in front of his property without regard to the placement of blinds on his neighbor's property.

Rights of Non-riparian Owner: Although the law states that a riparian owner who does not license a blind on his shore by August 31 forfeits the privilege for that season, it does not mean a non-riparian owner can erect or license a blind on the property of another without permission. It does mean that a riparian owner cannot erect a blind on his shore after August 31 that would deny someone else from having a blind in the public waters within 500 yards of the shore unless he has previously staked and licensed a blind in that location. If a landowner has not licensed a stake or a blind by August 31, a non-riparian owner may license a location in the public waters in front of such land, providing no other location within 500 yards has been so licensed. Again, such blind cannot be located in water in excess of eight feet in depth at mean high tide. Inasmuch as a non-riparian owner can purchase a license until September 30 and considering that he has 10 days to place the license, this privilege is valid through October 10 of each year. In other words, non-riparian owners have from September 1 until October 10 to

claim unclaimed locations. Of course, if a location is secured through agreement with a riparian landowner having control of the near shoreline, the site may be licensed as applies to a permittee or lessee of a landowner. A non-riparian owner, having licensed a blind in a given location, has first option to license such blind each year unless the riparian landowner having claim to that location exercises his right to license it.

Riparian Owner's Rights Renewed Annually: If a riparian owner fails to exercise his options, he may elect to do so the following year, thus preempting any rights of non-riparian owners who have erected blinds in the public waters in front of his shoreline.

Penalty for Violations: Any person who hunts or shoots migratory waterfowl in the public waters of this Commonwealth from a boat, float, raft or other buoyant craft or device within 500 yards of any legally licensed erected stationary blind of another without the consent of the licensee shall be guilty of a criminal offense that is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor. This provision shall not apply to any person when in active pursuit of a visible crippled waterfowl which was legally shot by the person.

Additionally, any person who erects a stationary blind within 500 yards of another licensed blind without permission of the licensee is guilty of a trespass, and the owner of the blind so encroached upon may maintain an action for damages. It should be noted that this is a civil action, not a criminal offense. It should also be noted that by November 1 a stationary blind must be erected; therefore, a stake with a stationary license affixed thereto cannot be considered to be a stationary blind after November 1.

Loss of Blind License: The violation of any of the provisions of law or regulations as to hunting migratory waterfowl from licensed blinds shall constitute a Class 2 misdemeanor and, in addition to other authorized penalties, the trial court shall immediately revoke the license of the blind owner who will have the same privileges as a new applicant to apply for a blind license the following year. Any blind for which the license has been revoked shall be destroyed by the former licensee or a conservation police officer.

Accidental Destruction of Blind: If a blind is destroyed in any manner beyond the control of the owner, it may be replaced within 30 days without losing the position it formerly occupied.

Number of Blinds Permitted: No club or individual who does not own riparian rights shall be permitted to license more than two stationary blinds in the public waters in any one season.

Floating Blinds, Where Prohibited: The use of floating blinds is prohibited in the counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland and Richmond in any of the public marshes, guts, streams, branches, creeks, or bays, including among others, Green Bay and Port Tobago Bay, flowing into the Rappahannock River or in any of its tributaries, or in Buckner's Creek, Nomini Creek and Nomini Bay, flowing into the Potomac River or any of its tributaries, **except from a licensed Offshore Blind Stake Site.** (See page 21 for details.)

Offshore Blind Stake Sites:

Non-Riparian Owner:

A non-riparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the 5-county area identified above and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply to the local license agent or clerk of the circuit court of the county in which an offshore blind stake site is to be located for a license for an offshore blind stake site. The license for an offshore blind stake site may be obtained from November 1 through November 10 of each year. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the site and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 10.

Riparian Owner:

From November 11 through November 15 of each year, any riparian owner and any other person who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the areas noted above, and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply to the local license agent or clerk of the circuit court of the county in which an offshore blind stake site is to be located for a license for any remaining offshore blind stake sites. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 15.

Placement of Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties: No stationary blind shall be more than 300 yards from shore, except in waters less than 600 yards wide, in which case the blind may be no more than half the width of the water from shore. This distance is measured from the low water mark.

No license shall be issued for stationary waterfowl blinds on the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas.



Floating Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties:

Floating blinds must be anchored and located no closer to another's blind than 400 yards unless person has written permission of blind owner. Such blinds must be taken in at a half hour after sunset.

In the area adjacent to the National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas floating blinds must be attached to a Game Department-placed post or buoy. Only one floating blind per post. These are on a first-come, first-served basis, sites to be occupied no earlier than 4:00 a.m. or later than one

half hour after sunset, and blinds removed each day. Hunters in licensed floating blinds can hunt from designated locations during legal shooting hours on Thanksgiving Day and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the open season.

Placement of Blinds Adjacent to Certain Wildlife Management Areas: No stationary blinds shall be licensed in the waters adjacent to the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area in Charles City County, the Game Farm Marsh WMA in New Kent County and the Ragged Island WMA in Isle of Wight County.

Occupied or Unoccupied Blinds: Hunters may not hunt within 500 yards of any licensed blind whether it is occupied or not.

Crippled Waterfowl: When in active pursuit of a visible waterfowl which was legally shot, the hunter may pursue such waterfowl without regard to the 500 yard prohibition protecting licensed waterfowl blinds.

Jump Shooting from Boats: Permitted where appropriate landowner permission has been secured or where generally permitted on public waters. Consult with local game warden to learn local restrictions. Not permitted within 500 yards of a licensed blind, except with consent of blind owner. If a boat is used for jump shooting and is modified for the purpose of concealing the hunter, it is a floating blind and must be licensed as such. Jump shooting is not permitted from a boat having a motor attached or any sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress therefrom has ceased.

Abandoned Blinds: Those licensing stationary blinds in the public waters shall remove same when licenses are allowed to expire or when they no longer intend to use them.

Waterfowl Blind Cleanup: Hunters are asked to remove unnatural materials, such as netting, camouflage cloth, wire or twine from stationary blinds after the waterfowl hunting season. Birds such as ospreys, eagles and owls often use blind structures for perching and/or nesting. Such materials, if left after the hunting season, can cause injury and even death to these birds if they become entangled in the material.

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Areas Closed To Waterfowl Hunting

The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 750 yards of a wildlife sanctuary in any city in Virginia.

Taking, attempting to take, pursuing or disturbing waterfowl is prohibited in the following areas:

- ◆ In Virginia Beach on the waters and from the shores of Crystal Lake, Linkhorn and Broad Bay and Long Creek and their tributaries.
- ◆ Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge in Surry County and all of the waters of the James River within a radius of 1,000 yards around that island, with the exception of blinds erected by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
- ◆ The waters of the James River around Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (except for Turkey Island cutoff canal) to the mean low water mark on the opposite shore.
- ◆ The Dick Cross Waterfowl Refuge below Kerr Dam and in the Roanoke River downstream to High Rock.
- ◆ Within the posted section of the Rappahannock River adjacent to Lands End Waterfowl Refuge in King George County.
- ◆ The waters of the Great Hunting Creek embayment within the City of Alexandria, and the waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County north of Dyke Marsh and south of the City of Alexandria and between the shore and a line 1,000 feet from the Maryland State line, although waterfowl that have been wounded elsewhere may be pursued into this area.
- ◆ The waters of Kane Creek Waterfowl Refuge within the boundaries of Mason Neck State Park in Fairfax County.
- ◆ The waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge extending from Sycamore Point northeasterly to Hallowing Point including all tributary creeks, guts, and inlets along the shoreline.
- ◆ The portion of the New River that lies entirely within the boundaries of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in the counties of Montgomery and Pulaski.

Attention Hunters: Migratory Bird Banding Projects

The Department captures and leg-bands a number of migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, brant and swans, as part of our annual monitoring programs. For the past five years, the Department has participated in a cooperative, nationwide Mourning Dove Banding Study. Nearly 3,000 doves have been banded in Virginia and over 170,000 doves have been banded across the country during the past five years. The last large-scale banding program for mourning doves conducted in the Commonwealth was 30 years ago. Similar to recoveries of banded waterfowl, recoveries of leg-banded mourning doves provide biologists with important information on dove distribution, harvest rates, and survival. Virginia's data will be combined with data from North Carolina and South Carolina as part of a regional subunit that will be compared with other subunits across the country. Hunters recovering a banded dove or any banded migratory game bird can keep the band, but remember to report the recovery information by either calling the toll-free number 1-800-327-BAND (this number is also written on the band), or reporting it online at the USGS Web site, www.reportband.gov. After reporting the band you will receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" that includes information about where and when the bird was banded. For more information on the Mourning Dove Banding Project or other Department migratory bird projects visit our Web site at www.HuntFishVA.com.

Please help us help you manage migratory game birds in
Virginia by reporting banded birds.

**1-800-327-BAND (2263) or
www.reportband.gov**

This number is **ONLY** for reporting USFWS bands.
Private bands cannot be reported on this number.

Avian Influenza in Waterfowl

Low pathogenic strains of avian influenza (AI) are common in certain wild bird populations especially waterfowl and shorebirds, but generally do not cause obvious signs of infection nor pose a risk to humans. The highly pathogenic Asian strain of H5N1 avian influenza was first detected in 1997 in Southeast Asia and has spread to other parts of Asia, as well as Russia, Europe and Africa. People can become infected with this strain of H5N1 avian influenza virus; however, this virus does not move easily to humans. This Asian strain of H5N1 is unusual in that it has caused outbreaks of illness and death in various wild bird species. To date, the highly pathogenic strain of Asian H5N1 has not been found in North America.

Hunters should not be overly concerned about the Eurasian high path H5N1 strain at this time, but should take common sense precautions about hunting hygiene. Even apparently healthy wild birds can carry other infectious organisms that can move between wildlife and people.

- Do not handle birds that are obviously sick or birds found dead.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean and dry.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning your birds.
- Use rubber gloves when cleaning game.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing birds.
- Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.
- Cook game meat thoroughly (155-165° F) to kill disease organisms and parasites. Avian influenza is not transmitted through cooked food.

The Department will be conducting surveillance for AI in migratory waterfowl this fall and winter as part of a Nationwide Early Detection Surveillance Plan. We will be asking hunters to allow us to sample some of the birds they harvest. More information on Avian Influenza and the Department's Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan can be found on our Web site at www.HuntFishVA.com.

Report Wildlife Violations
1-800-237-5712
or e-mail
wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov

Boat Smart From the Start Wear Your Life Jacket

Wearing a life jacket may save your life. It is estimated that 80 percent of boating-related drownings could have been prevented had the victim been wearing a life jacket.

The newest type of life jacket, the manual or automatic inflatable, is lightweight and comfortable. They are versatile enough to be worn at any time of the year, and fit easily over a hunting coat or sweater.

Safety Tips:

- Check the weather before leaving.
- Wear a life jacket or float coat.
- Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.
- Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- Properly load your boat.
- Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- Guard against hypothermia.
- Leave the alcohol at home.

For more information contact the Boating Safety Coordinator at 804-367-1125.



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Sunrise and Sunset Timetable—Richmond, Virginia

Add one hour for Daylight Saving Time if and when in use.

Days of Month	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009	Mar. 2009	
	Sunrise/Sunset (a.m.) (p.m.)	Sunrise/Sunset (a.m.) (p.m.)	Sunrise/Sunset (a.m.) (p.m.)	Sunrise/Sunset (a.m.) (p.m.)	Sunrise/Sunset (a.m.) (p.m.)	Sunrise/Sunset (a.m.) (p.m.)	
1	6:06 5:52	6:35 5:11	7:06 4:52	7:25 5:03	7:13 5:34	6:41 6:04	Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.
2	6:07 5:51	6:36 5:10	7:07 4:52	7:25 5:03	7:12 5:35	6:40 6:05	
3	6:07 5:49	6:37 5:09	7:08 4:51	7:25 5:04	7:11 5:36	6:38 6:06	
4	6:08 5:48	6:38 5:08	7:09 4:51	7:25 5:05	7:11 5:38	6:37 6:07	
5	6:09 5:46	6:39 5:07	7:10 4:51	7:25 5:06	7:10 5:39	6:35 6:08	
6	6:10 5:45	6:41 5:06	7:11 4:51	7:25 5:07	7:09 5:40	6:34 6:09	Location Correction Bristol +19 minutes Cape Charles -6 minutes Charlottesville +4 minutes Chincoteague -8 minutes Danville +8 minutes Fredericksburg 0 minutes Newport News -5 minutes Norfolk -5 minutes Roanoke +10 minutes Tazewell +16 minutes Williamsburg -3 minutes Winchester +3 minutes
7	6:11 5:43	6:42 5:05	7:12 4:51	7:25 5:08	7:08 5:41	6:32 6:10	
8	6:12 5:42	6:43 5:04	7:12 4:51	7:25 5:09	7:07 5:42	6:31 6:11	
9	6:13 5:40	6:44 5:03	7:13 4:52	7:25 5:10	7:06 5:43	6:30 6:12	
10	6:14 5:39	6:45 5:02	7:14 4:52	7:25 5:11	7:05 5:44	6:28 6:13	
11	6:15 5:38	6:46 5:02	7:15 4:52	7:24 5:12	7:03 5:45	6:27 6:14	
12	6:16 5:36	6:47 5:01	7:16 4:52	7:24 5:13	7:02 5:46	6:25 6:14	
13	6:17 5:35	6:48 5:00	7:16 4:52	7:24 5:14	7:01 5:47	6:24 6:15	
14	6:17 5:33	6:49 4:59	7:17 4:53	7:24 5:15	7:00 5:48	6:22 6:16	
15	6:18 5:32	6:50 4:59	7:18 4:53	7:23 5:16	6:59 5:49	6:21 6:17	
16	6:19 5:31	6:51 4:58	7:18 4:53	7:23 5:17	6:58 5:51	6:19 6:18	
17	6:20 5:29	6:52 4:57	7:19 4:54	7:23 5:18	6:57 5:52	6:18 6:19	
18	6:21 5:28	6:53 4:57	7:19 4:54	7:22 5:19	6:55 5:53	6:16 6:20	
19	6:22 5:27	6:54 4:56	7:20 4:54	7:22 5:20	6:54 5:54	6:15 6:21	
20	6:23 5:25	6:55 4:56	7:21 4:55	7:21 5:21	6:53 5:55	6:13 6:22	
21	6:24 5:24	6:56 4:55	7:21 4:55	7:21 5:22	6:52 5:56	6:12 6:23	
22	6:25 5:23	6:57 4:55	7:22 4:56	7:20 5:23	6:50 5:57	6:10 6:24	
23	6:26 5:21	6:58 4:54	7:22 4:56	7:20 5:24	6:49 5:58	6:09 6:25	
24	6:27 5:20	6:59 4:54	7:22 4:57	7:19 5:25	6:48 5:59	6:07 6:26	
25	6:28 5:19	7:00 4:53	7:23 4:58	7:18 5:26	6:46 6:00	6:06 6:26	
26	6:29 5:18	7:01 4:53	7:23 4:58	7:18 5:28	6:45 6:01	6:04 6:27	
27	6:30 5:17	7:02 4:53	7:24 4:59	7:17 5:29	6:44 6:02	6:03 6:28	
28	6:31 5:15	7:03 4:52	7:24 5:00	7:16 5:30	6:42 6:03	6:01 6:29	
29	6:32 5:14	7:04 4:52	7:24 5:00	7:16 5:31		6:00 6:30	
30	6:33 5:13	7:05 4:52	7:24 5:01	7:15 5:32		5:58 6:31	
31	6:34 5:12		7:25 5:02	7:14 5:33		5:57 6:32	